

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD IR

SUBJ: NEW IMPORT REGULATIONS ANNOUNCED

1. THE IRANIAN IMPORT-EXPORT POLICY FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING MARCH 21, OUTLINED ON MARCH 19 BY MINISTER OF COMMERCE TASLIMI, MAKES CHANGES IN IMPORT DUTIES AND STATUS OF A NUMBER OF ITEMS. IN ANNOUNCING THE REGULATIONS THE MINISTER STATED THAT: FOOD IMPORTS WOULD BE SO REGULATED AS TO PROTECT BOTH DOMESTIC AGRICULTURE AND THE CONSUMER, LOCALLY PRODUCED PRODUCTS WOULD BE PROTECTED, WHILE DUTIES ON OTHER ITEMS WOULD BE CUT, AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO ALLOW GREATER PRIVATE PARTICIPATION IN TRADE.

2. ANNOUNCED REDUCTION IN DUTIES (COMMERCIAL BENEFITS TAX) ARE AS FOLLOWS: LAYING HENS, ELIMINATED; COTTON YARN, FROM 50 TO 25 RIALS; COTTON TEXTILES, FROM 90 TO 70 RIALS; SPACE HEATERS, FROM 40 PERCENT TO 30 PERCENT AD VALOREM; COFFEE GRAINDERS, FROM 40 PERCENT TO 20 PERCENT AD VALOREM; MEAT GRINDERS, FROM 25 PERCENT TO 20 PERCENT AD VALOREM, AND NON-ELECTRIC REGRIGERATORS, FROM 35 PERCENT TO 15 PERCENT AD VALOREM. IN ADDITION, THE COMMERCIAL BENEFIT TAX (CBT) ON OFFSET LEAD AND ZINC BLOCKS AND ON COMPUTERS HAS BEEN ELIMINATED.

3. THE CBT WAS RAISED ON GOLD IMPORTS FROM FREE TO 5

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PERCENT AD VALOREM; CELLOPHANE TAPES FROM 30 TO 50 PER KILO, PLASTIC TAPES, FROM 50 TO 90 RIALS PER KILO; AND ON TRANSFORMERS OF 2 KW AND LESS FROM 25 PERCENT TO 35 PERCENT AD VALOREM.

4. THE MINISTER ANNOUNCED THAT IMPORTS OF POWDERED AND LIQUID SOUP, PREVIOUSLY UNAUTHORIZED FOR IMPORTATION COULD

NOW BE IMPORTED WITH THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE COMMERCE MINISTRY. SIMILARLY, GARMENTS FOR MEDICAL USE WILL NOW BE AUTHORIZED. ON THE OTHER HAND, IMPORTS OF FRUIT, BEEF, MUTTON, FISH, LOTHES, A WIDE VARIETY OF MAN-MADE YARNS, IRON AND STEEL PIPES, MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND POCKET COMPUTERRS, HENCEFORTH WILL BE IMPORTABLE ONLY WITH PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE MINISTRY.

5. COMMENT: THE FULL TEXT OF THE NEW REGULATION WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR SEVERAL DAYS. AT THAT TIME ADDITIONAL DETAILS WILL BE FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON END-USERS. BASED UPON AVAILABLE INFORMATION, HOWEVER, THE OVERALL IMPACT OF THE NEW REGULATION APPEARS RELATIVELY SLIGHT. THE MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON ASSEMBLING DOMESTIC PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS AND WITH REGARD TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR ECHO OF PAST TRADE POLICY ANNOUNCEMENTS, BUT THE COMING YEAR WILL TEST THE ACCURACY OF THESE INTENTIONS.  
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